

Town of Camden Opera House Committee
Special Meeting
January 31, 2012
Tucker Room
5PM

Present: Kate Bates, Acting Chair; Kerry Hadley, Manager; Dave Morrison, Staff; Aimee Phelen-Deconnick, Maryanne Shanahan; Don White, Select Board Liaison; Bob Williams; Katherine Young

Absent: Raymond Brunyanski, Susan Dorr, Hal Owen, Aimee Phelen-Deconnick

Meeting called to order by Kate Bates at 5:00 PM.

New Business:

1. The Committee agreed to table discussion about the strategic planning session until the next meeting in order to spend adequate time on the proposed budget. Kerry Hadley noted that the session was very helpful in formulating the budget.
2. The Committee discussed the proposed revisions to the Mission Statement and addition of a Vision Statement, both topics of conversation at the Strategic Planning session. Several observations by the committee led to the recommendation that the document be revised and resubmitted to the committee for additional consideration. The committee is asked to seriously examine the new version when it is distributed and send any comments and suggestions to Kerry by her stated due date. Should any member not have comments and, rather, be comfortable with the revised version, please so advise Kerry.
3. Third Floor Plan Review: Dave Morrison presented an architectural rendering of proposed reconstruction of the third floor and several committee members provided thoughtful feedback. The Committee will continue to see such renderings as the project continues. Kerry advised that the level of work and commitment associated with routine Opera House responsibilities and third floor planning make it feasible to present the issue for a November warrant as opposed to June, which is too soon. Don White advised that the third floor reconstruction is a priority for the Select Board and encouraged all Committee members to participate in meetings to demonstrate support during the process.

Proposed Budget Review

Kerry presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1 2012 to June 30, 2013). The committee supported the proposed budget, including an addition of an office laptop for the Opera House Manager, to allow her a portable office when necessary, and the addition of a line item for staff development through relevant off-campus conferences. Kerry's goal was a zero growth budget. In presenting such a budget, the Committee's recommendation at the Strategic Planning session that the Opera House staff be increased by an essential part-time administrative support person, was not presented. The Committee urged Kerry to present the need and look for ways that could still accomplish a zero-growth budge, possibly by sharing 60-40 with the Town Office

and by recalculating existing full-time salaries and benefits once the it is recognized that Dave Morrison is a 60-40 share and not an 80-20 share with the town. The Committee also agreed with the proposal to upgrade Dave from a grade 8 to a grade 10 (ensuring first that the required revised job description reflects all criteria necessary to make the new grade), and recommended that Dave and Kerry explore the possibility of accomplishing auditorium camera needs with a single upgrade in camera equipment as opposed to an entire new system.

The Committee will see a revised budget at their next meeting on March 5.

Kate Barnes adjourned the meeting at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted by Maryanne Shanahan